

1 Copy only.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health for 1968

MEMBERS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1968:

MAYOR: Councillor Rev. C. M. Semper.

ALDERMEN: R. W. P. Humphreys,
J. D. K. Lloyd.

COUNCILLORS: R. I. Bainbridge,
D. P. Davies,
W. A. Gornall,
G. W. Jellings,
W. H. Williams.

TOWN CLERK: N. O. Davies, A.C.C.S.

TREASURER: R. C. Williams.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: Elinor M. Greville, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Welshpool Borough Council Offices,
Welshpool.
(District M.O.H. N.Monts).

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR: H. J. Sleigh.



TO THE MONTGOMERY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending 31st December, 1968, which has been drawn up according to the instructions of the Welsh Board of Health and includes the report of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector, Mr. Sleigh.

I apologize for the delay in presenting the 1968 Annual Report, but, as you are aware, I was absent from duty during 1968 due to illness and accident.

A study of the Vital Statistics of the Area for the Year under consideration shows a fall in the Registrar General's figure of the Estimated Mid-Year population since 1967's figure: but, as the number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 2, there was a natural increase in the population. The Birth Rate rose by 4.1% and the Death Rate rose only marginally by 0.1%.

2 illegitimate births occurred out of a total of 12 births, resulting in a decrease in the illegitimacy rate. It is necessary to study the trend of these rates over several years. A study of this trend from the years 1959 to 1968, inclusive, clearly demonstrates a fluctuation. No infants died in 1968 and there were no deaths under 25 years age.

In 1968 the chief cause of death, from heart disease, was the same as in the previous 2 years. All such deaths (5) were from coronary heart disease. (In 1967 there were 2). Deaths from cerebro-vascular disease were a close runner-up. There was one death from cancer of the lung (1 in 1967).

The Borough had been free from infectious diseases for 2 years until 1968 when 3 cases of measles and 5 cases of food-poisoning occurred. This was the year in which an anti-measles vaccination campaign was initiated in the County, with success, otherwise there may have been many more cases of measles to report. I have dealt at length, in the body of the report, with the family outbreak of salmonella food-poisoning which occurred on a farm in the Borough.

No new cases of tuberculosis occurred and there were no deaths from this cause.

I would like to thank Mr. Sleigh for preparing and commenting upon the section of the report dealing with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area. May I also thank Mr. Davies, the Town Clerk, Mr. Sleigh and the staff of the Borough Council Offices for their continuing assistance to me in all aspects of my work during the past year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd) Elinor M. Greville.

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1970.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28862442>

General Statistics of the District

Area - 3390 Acres.

Registrar General's mid-year estimate of population - 990.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books - 334.

Rateable Value at 31st March, 1968 - £16182.

Product of a penny rate - £59. 7s. 8d.

Vital Statistics

Population

Estimated Mid-year 1968 -	990
Estimated Mid-year 1967 -	1000
Estimated Mid-year 1966 -	1000
Estimated Mid-year 1965 -	980
Estimated Mid-year 1964 -	970
Estimated Mid-year 1963 -	970
Estimated Mid-year 1962 -	950

These figures show a fall in the population since 1967. The 1968 live births stood at the figure of 14; since the number of deaths was 12 there was a natural increase in the population of 2.

Births and Deaths

Live Births - Total 14

				Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	7	12
Illegitimate	...	...	...	NIL	2	2
Total	...	...	...	5	9	14

Crude Birth Rate - 14.1 per 1,000 population (10.00 per 1,000 in 1967).

Corrected Birth Rate - 14.81 per 1,000 population (after applying the Area Comparability figure) - 10.5 per 1,000 in 1967.

Illegitimacy Rate - 14.3% of total births (20% in 1967).

Illegitimacy Rate Trends

(1959 - 1968)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Montgomery Borough</u>	<u>Monts County</u>	<u>E & W</u>
1959	20.0 *	5.1	5.2
1960	6.3	4.4	5.5
1961	5.9	4.2	6.3
1962	5.9	5.5	6.9
1963	12.0	4.4	7.0
1964	Nil	4.9	7.3
1965	8.7	6.98	7.8
1966	6.7	7.4	8.0
1967	20.0 **	7.2	8.6
1968	14.3	10.4	8.5

* 4 illegitimate births : 20 total births
** 2 " " : 10 " "

Stillbirths - Nil.

(There were only 2 Stillbirths during past 8 years)

Still Birth Rate - Nil.

Infant deaths (deaths under one year) - Nil (only one has occurred during the past 8 years).

Cont/over

Total Infant Mortality Rate - Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births - Nil.

Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate - Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births - Nil.

Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate - Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births - Nil.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) - Nil.

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) - Nil.

Perinatal Mortality Rate - Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths - Nil.

Maternal Mortality - Nil.

Deaths - (All Causes) 12 (12 in 1967).

Male	...	...	...	...	...	5
Female	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total	...	...	...	...	...	12

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1968
IN THE MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF MONTGOMERY

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All Ages	Age in Years					
			25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75 and over
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Diabetes Mellitus	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System, Etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Coronary Heart Disease	M	3	-	1	1	1	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bronchitis and Emphysema	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL ALL CAUSES</u>	M	5	-	1	1	2	-	1
	F	7	1	-	-	2	3	1
GRAND TOTALS	M & F	12	1	1	1	4	3	2

Chief Causes of Death

- 1) Heart disease - 5 (All from Coronary heart disease) = 41% of all deaths (33¹/₃% in 1967).
- 2) Cerebrovascular Disease - 2 (16% of all deaths).

Crude Death Rate - 12.1 per 1,000 population (12.00 in 1967).

Corrected Death Rate - 12.82 per 1,000 population (after applying Comparability Factor) - (12.72 in 1967).

BIRTH AND DEATH TRENDS (1963 - 1968)
(Montgomery Borough)

Year	Birth Rate (corrected)	Death Rate (corrected)
1963	26.00	13.15
1964	14.1	16.73
1965	24.64	8.65
1966	15.75	22.04
1967	10.5	12.72
1968	14.81	12.82

In order to compare the birth and death rates of one locality with those of another it is necessary to determine whether the two populations are comparable in point of age; if they are not, then certain corrections must be made. The Registrar General provides figures known as the "Comparability Factors" for this purpose, but in 1968 even after applying these factors to the Crude Birth and Death rates, the corrected Birth Rate was still lower and the corrected Death Rate still higher than the corresponding rates for the county and England and Wales.

Comparative Statistics (1968)

	Montgomery Borough	Montg. County	England & Wales (Provisional figures)
Birth Rate (corrected)	14.81	15.55	16.9
Stillbirth Rate	Nil	1.63%	1.40%
Illegitimacy Rate	*14.3%	9.4%	8.5%
Infant Mortality Rate (Total)	Nil	14.9	18.0
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	Nil	9.9	12.3
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	Nil	9.9	10.5
Perinatal Mortality Rate	Nil	26.0	25.0
Maternal Mortality Rate	Nil	Nil	0.24
Death Rate (corrected)	12.82	11.70	11.9

* Caused by only 2 illegitimate births.

ANALYSIS OF VITAL STATISTICS OF FIVE SANITARY AUTHORITIES
IN N. MONTGOMERYSHIRE

1968

Sanitary District	Population	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Stillbirth Rate % of live births	Illegitimate Birth Rate % of total births	Total Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per million population
Llanfyllin M.B.	1,120	12.5	Nil	Nil	Nil	13.39	Nil
Montgomery M.B.	990	14.14	Nil	*14.3	Nil	12.10	Nil
Welshpool M.B.	6,650	15.64	3.8	8.3	19.2	9.77	Nil
Llanfyllin R.D.	8,770	11.97	0.9	12.3	28.6	13.10	Nil
Forden R.D.	5,120	17.19	1.1	6.8	Nil	12.11	Nil

* This was caused by 2 such births.

Cont/over

Infectious Disease Control

3 cases of measles and 5 cases of food poisoning occurred in the Borough in 1968.

Measles

No cases had occurred for 2 years, but in 1968 22 cases were reported in a neighbouring district.

It was in 1968 that the County Health Department instigated a campaign to vaccinate against measles all pre-school children and school children up to the age of 15 yrs. A total number of 1,174 children were vaccinated.

Tuberculosis

Once again no new cases or deaths occurred in the Borough and, indeed, there were no deaths from this cause in the five northern districts of Montgomeryshire; there was but one such death in the County.

The County Medical Officer of Health for Montgomeryshire pointed out in his report the dangers of complacency where this disease is concerned. Although only 11 new cases were reported in the County, new cases may break out if screening of contacts and treatment of infected cases is in any way relaxed.

Food Poisoning

Five members of a family on a farm were affected by the Salmonella Dublin food poisoning organism.

All were investigated bacteriologically and kept under supervision until they were proved no longer infectious.

The milk supply was checked and found to be pasteurized prior to sale to the public.

This infection is now almost endemic amongst farming stock, and the Ministry of Agriculture are notifying increasing numbers of infected animals to us. In every instance a visit is made to the farm and the family and workers are questioned as to their health and advised not to drink raw milk. If milk is retailed to the public arrangements are made to ensure that it is protected by pasteurization. General advice on hygiene is also offered.

As animals are often symptomless excretors a healthy animal may remain an undiagnosed danger in the herd and infect the milk supply. Alternatively a farm worker may transfer the organism from a sick animal directly to himself or to the milk or food.

Many foodstuffs have been found to harbour salmonella organisms, especially poultry, fresh and frozen, and surfaces on which they have been prepared may, if not properly cleansed, be responsible for infecting other foodstuffs.

Immunization

In addition to Measles Vaccination, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis Immunization and Smallpox Vaccination are carried out at most County Welfare Clinics and by General Practitioners.

266 pupils at Welshpool and Newtown High Schools were vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine against tuberculosis.

Mass Radiography

This Unit discontinued its regular 3 weekly visits to Newtown and Welshpool and the mobile unit now visits a number of towns for a few days once a year. In 1968, 1,553 persons were X-Rayed by the unit; an increase of 635 on the previous year.

Although only 1 case of pulmonary tuberculosis came to light through this screening, other abnormalities of the chest are discovered and enable early treatment to be instituted.

General Health Service

The County Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the personal health services of the district.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

(1) Water

Montgomeryshire Water Board is responsible for water supplies that were satisfactory during the year. Twelve samples were taken for analysis and in each case the report was highly satisfactory.

(2) Drainage & Sewerage

Apart from an obstruction that was removed from one sewer no difficulties were encountered.

Three samples of effluent from the Sewage Disposal Plant were satisfactory.

(3) Public Cleansing

Refuse is collected fortnightly by contract with Forden Rural District Council and is tipped on land approximately one mile from the town.

Night soil was collected from nine properties and the Council decided to serve notice wherever possible to convert pail closets to water closets.

(4) Shops

All were inspected and no action was necessary.

(5) Vermin

Two Rodent Operatives are employed jointly with Forden R.D.C., Welshpool Borough and Llanfyllin R.D.C. No serious infestations occurred during the year. The sewers were treated with a small kill.

Number of premises inspected	55
" " " treated	55
Materials used:	
Oatmeal	72 lbs
Zinc Phosphide	3 lbs
Racumen 57	2 lbs

Warfarin was not used as the rats are Warfarin Resistant.

(6) General

There are no camping sites nor swimming pools and there were no complaints of smoke nuisance.

Housing Etc.

Housing

Five bungalows and two houses were built by the Council.

One house was built by private enterprise.

Three houses were modernised with the aid of Improvement Grant.

Cont/over

Factories

There are no outworkers in the Borough but 7 Factories in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority. No action was necessary during the year.

Eleven premises are on the Register of Offices and Shops. All were inspected. One minor accident was reported but no action was necessary.

Inspection of Food

Milk

The district is served by outside retailers. All of the milk retailed is pasteurised.

Meat and Food

There are no slaughterhouses in the Borough.

During the year 23 lbs of food was voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption. This was all tinned food that had deteriorated for various reasons.